

## **WACAP and how results might influence management actions in the National Parks**

Authors: **Dixon H. Landers**<sup>1</sup>, S. Simonich<sup>2</sup>, S. Usenko<sup>2</sup>, K. Hageman<sup>2</sup>, L. Ackerman<sup>2</sup>, J. Schrlau<sup>2</sup>, A. Schwindt<sup>2</sup>, M. Kent<sup>2</sup>, C. Schreck<sup>2</sup>, D. H. Campbell<sup>3</sup>, L. Geiser<sup>4</sup>, D. Jaffe<sup>5</sup>, H. E. Taylor<sup>6</sup>, M. M. Erway<sup>7</sup>, T. Blett<sup>8</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>USEPA/NHEERL-Western Ecology Division, 200 SW 35<sup>th</sup> St., Corvallis, OR 97333

<sup>2</sup>Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

<sup>3</sup>USGS, Denver, CO

<sup>4</sup>USDA-Forest Service, Corvallis, OR

<sup>5</sup>University of Washington-Bothell

<sup>6</sup>USGS, Boulder, CO

<sup>7</sup>Dynamac, Inc, Corvallis, OR

<sup>8</sup>NPS-Air Resources Division, Denver, CO

The Western Airborne Contaminants Assessment Project (WACAP) was initiated in 2002 by the NPS to determine if airborne contaminants were having an impact on remote western ecosystems. Multiple sample types (e.g. snow, water, sediment, fish and vegetation) were collected from 2003 – 2005 to evaluate flux, pathways and impacts of semi-volatile organic compounds, mercury and other metals. Atmospheric modeling was performed to determine the likely sources of contaminants. The synthesis of the WACAP results evaluates and compares current and future risk to these ecosystems based on contaminant status in snow, water, vegetation, fish and recent sediments in the context of the geographic and specific lake basin characteristics. The performance of indicators used in WACAP can be evaluated by management for their relevance to the NPS Inventory and Monitoring program. Furthermore, the spatially extensive WACAP findings can be used by management in assessing relative airborne contaminant risk in specific national parks.